

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses to each of which is connected a ~~shared device~~ plurality of shared devices that can be used by another information processing apparatus through the network system, said information apparatus comprising:

management means for managing the information of a ~~shared device~~ the plurality of shared devices present in the network system;

reception means for receiving the information of a ~~shared device~~ the plurality of shared devices connected to another information processing apparatus, the received information including information of resources in the plurality of shared devices;

transmission means for transmitting the information of a shared device connected to said information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus on the network system; and

recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated in its resources, in accordance with the information received by said reception means; and

renewal means for changing information on a status or a connected condition of the shared device displayed on a display of said information processing apparatus in accordance with ~~the information managed by said management means, based~~

~~on the information received by said reception means~~ a recognition result made by said recognition means, wherein said renewal means changes the information on the status of the shared device such that the one shared device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other shared devices.

Claim 2 (original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in said group.

Claim 3 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting log-on of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared device of the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 4 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means is adapted, at the log-on to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the shared device present in the network system.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, in response to the

detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to transmit information on the status after the change.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, at the log-on to the network system, automatically to transmit the information of the shared device connected to said information processing apparatus.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of the other information processing apparatus in said management means.

Claim 8 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, in informing the other information processing apparatus of the information of the shared device connected to said information processing apparatus, selectively to execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on the network system or a second method for transmission to the other information processing apparatus through the network system.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An information processing method for managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses, including a first information processing apparatus, to each of which is connected a ~~shared device~~ plurality of shared devices that can be used by another information processing apparatus through the ~~information processing network system~~, the method comprising:

a management step, of managing the information of a ~~shared device~~ the plurality of shared devices present in the network system by management means;

a reception step, of receiving the information of a ~~shared device~~ the plurality of shared devices connected to another information processing apparatus, the received information including information of resources in the plurality of shared devices;

a transmission step, of transmitting the information of a shared device connected to a first information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus on the network system; and

a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated in its resources, in accordance with the information received in said reception step; and

a renewal step, of changing information on a status of a connected condition of the shared device displayed on a display of the first information processing apparatus in accordance with ~~the information managed by the management means, based on the information received in said reception step~~ a recognition result made in said recognition step, wherein said renewal step includes changing the information on the status of the shared device such that the one shared device that has been updated in its resources

may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other shared devices.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein ~~the said reception means performs~~ means includes performing processing that includes a first reception control step of designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in the group.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting log-on of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared device of the another information processing apparatus.

Claim 12 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step is adapted, at the log-on to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the shared device present in the network system.

Claim 13 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to transmit information on the status after the change.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to automatically transmit the information of the shared device connected to the first information processing apparatus.

Claim 15 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said renewal step is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of the other information processing apparatus in the management means.

Claim 16 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in informing the information of the shared device connected to the first information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus, selectively to execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on the network system or a second method for transmission to another information processing apparatus through the network system.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus for managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses, including a first information processing apparatus, to each of which is connected a ~~shared device~~ plurality of shared devices that can be used by another

information processing apparatus through the network system, said information processing program comprising:

a management step, of managing the information of ~~a shared device~~ the plurality of shared devices present in the network system, using management means;

a reception step, of receiving the information of ~~a shared device~~ the plurality of shared devices connected to another information processing apparatus, the received information including information of resources in the plurality of shared devices;

a transmission step, of transmitting the information of a shared device connected to the first information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus on the network system; ~~and~~

a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated in its resources, in accordance with the information received in said reception step; and

a renewal step, of changing information on a status or a connected condition of the shared device displayed on a display of the first information processing apparatus in accordance with ~~the information managed by the management means, based on the information received in said reception step~~ a recognition result made in said recognition step, wherein said renewal step includes changing the information on the status of the shared device such that the one shared device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other shared devices.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said reception step includes a first reception control step of designating a

group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in the group.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting log-on of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared device of the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said reception step is adapted, at the log-on to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the shared device present in the network system.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the first information processing apparatus, to transmit information on the status after the change.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, at the log-on to the network system, to automatically transmit the information of the shared device connected to the first information processing apparatus.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said renewal step is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of the other information processing apparatus in the management means.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in informing the other information processing apparatus of the information of the shared device connected to the first information processing apparatus, selectively to execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on the network system or a second method for transmission to another information processing apparatus through the network system.

Claim 25 (new): An information processing apparatus for communicating with a plurality of devices via a communication link, said apparatus comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining information of a plurality of resources in the plurality of devices;

recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of devices has been updated in its resources, in accordance with the information obtained by said obtaining means; and

display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, information such that the one device that has been updated in its resources may be

displayed on the display distinguishable from the other devices.

Claim 26 (new): An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said display means displays the change in statuses of the resources of the plurality of devices by icon changes.

Claim 27 (new): An information processing method for communicating with a plurality of devices via a communication link, said method comprising:

an obtaining step, of obtaining information of a plurality of resources in the plurality of devices;

a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the plurality of devices has been updated in its resources, in accordance with the information obtained in said obtaining step; and

a display step, of displaying, on a display, in accordance with a recognition result made in said recognition step, information such that the one device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other devices.

Claim 28 (new): A method according to claim 27, in which said display step includes displaying the change in statuses of the resources of the plurality of devices by icon changes.

Claim 29 (new): A computer readable memory which stores a program to

be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus for communicating with a plurality of devices via a communication link, said program comprising code for performing a method comprising:

an obtaining step, of obtaining information of a plurality of resources in the plurality of devices;

a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the plurality of devices has been updated in its resources, in accordance with the information obtained in said obtaining step; and

a display step, of displaying, on a display, in accordance with a recognition result made in said recognition step, information such that the one device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other devices.

Claim 30 (new): A computer readable memory according to claim 29, in which said display step includes displaying the change in statuses of the resources of the plurality of devices by icon changes.